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AUTHOR Strasheim, Lorraine A.
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ABSTRACT

Taking the epigrams of Martial and some of the reading notes from the Loeb Classical Library, this document presents classroom-ready readings on foods, including a menu excerpted from Martial and a series of two- to four-line epigrams on a variety of foods:peppers, beans, flour, beets, lettuce, turnips, leeks, cheese, sausage, eggs, bread, mushrooms, turtledoves, fish sauce, and wine. The last two concern a "gift from Martial" and the sadness of dining alone. Each page has an epigram on the left and a Latin-English vocabulary list on the right. The material was prepared for a mini-course at Indiana University on the poet Martial and Roman daily life. (Author/CFM)

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THE POET MARTIAL AND ROMAN DAILY LIFE

Lorraine A. Strasheim, Instructor

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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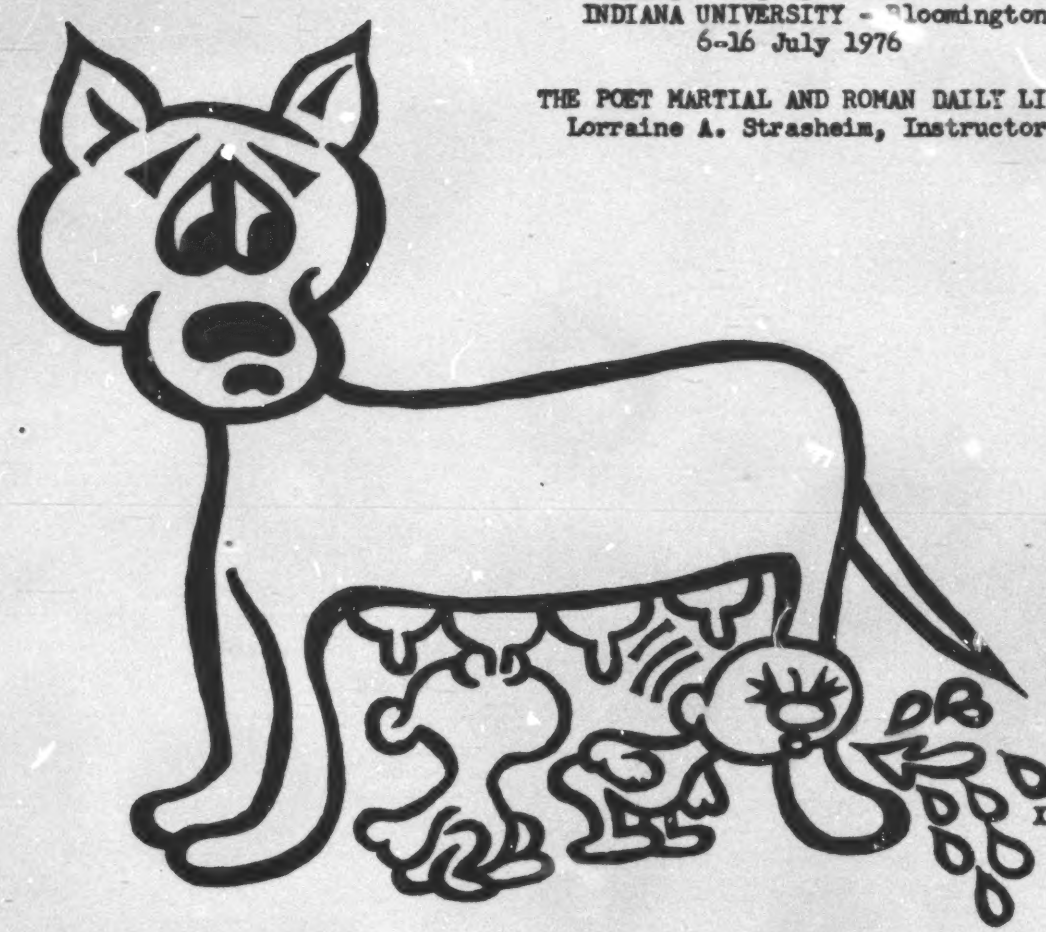

DE GUSTIBUS NŌN DISPUTANDUM

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Coordinator for School Foreign Languages
M21 Memorial East
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

(812) 337-5806

I. CĒNULA MARTIĀLIS

prōmulsis (gustus)

mulsum

vīlēs Cappadocae gravēsque porrī

dīvīsīs cybium latēns ōvīs

5 cēna prīma

coliculus virēns...modo quī relīquit hortum

cēna secunda

pultem niveam premens botellus

cēna tertia

pallēns faba cum rubente lardō

cēnula, -ae f: (diminutive of cēna) little dinner, simple meal
prōmulsis, -idis f: dish taken as a relish before a meal (eggs, saltfish, radishes, etc.)
gustus, -ūs m: tasting; relish taken before a meal
mulsum, -ī n: wine sweetened with honey
vīlis, -e: cheap, inexpensive, lowcost
Cappadoca, -ae f: Cappadocian lettuce
gravis, -e: heavy, weighty; strong
porrus, -ī m: leek, scallion
dīvīdō, -vīsī, -vīsum, 3: separate, divide (into parts)
cybium, -(i)ī n: tunny, a large sea fish of the mackerel family
latēns, -entis pres. part. of lateō: lurking, hiding, concealed; figuratively: nestled
ōvum, -ī n: egg
cēna, -ae f: dinner, principal meal of the Romans, taken about three or four o'clock in the afternoon; course of a meal
prīmus, -a, -um: first
coliculus, -ī m: broccoli
virēns, -entis pres. part. of vireō: green, leafy, verdant
modo adv: just, just now, lately, at once
relinquō, -līquī, -lictum, 3: leave, go, quit, abandon
hortus, -ī m. & f: (vegetable) garden; yard
secundus, -a, -um: second, next, following
puls, pultis f: porridge or pottage made of flour; pulse
niveus, -a, -um: snowy, white as snow
premō, pressī, pressum, 3: press, surround, cover, lie on
botellus, -ī m: small sausage
tertius, -a, -um: third
pallēns, -entis pres. part. of palleō: pale, wan, sallow, greenish
faba, -ae f: bean
rubēns, -entis pres. part. of rubeō: blushing, red, reddish
lardum, -ī n: bacon; the fat of bacon, lard

4. dīvīsīs: "sliced"
8. pultem: probably had the consistency of a very thick soup.

secundae mēnsae (bellāria)	secundus, -a, -um: second, next; with mēnsa: dessert mēnsa, -ae f: table; course at dinner bellāria, -ae f: dessert, including fruits, nuts, confectionary, sweet wine
marcentēs ūvae	marceō, —, —, 2: shrink, shrivel, wither; overly ripe ūva, -ae f: grape
nōmen pira quae ferunt Syrōrum	nōmen, nōminis n: name, title pirum, -ī n: pear ferō, tulī, lātum, ferre irreg: bear, carry, bring Syrus, -ī m: Syrian
lentō castaneae vapōre tostae	lentus, -a, -um: slow, motionless, inactive, lingering castanea, -ae f: chestnut vapor (vapos), -ōris m: vapor, steam, heat torreō, torruī, tostum, 2: dry, parch, roast, toast
15 vīnum tū faciēs bonum bibendō	vīnum, -ī n: wine faciō, fēcī, factum, 3: do, make, create bibō, bibī, bibitum, 3: drink, imbibe
cōmissātiō	cōmissātiō, -ōnis f: reveling, noisy time, the social hour, period of entertainment
vīnum	
nōbilēs olīvae Pīcēnī modo quās tulēre rāmī	nōbilis, -e: wellknown, outstanding, famous, noble, fine olīva, -ae f: olive, olive tree, olive branch Pīcēnum, -ī n: Picenum, district in central Italy on the Adriatic which produced fine fruits and oil modo adv: just, just now, lately rāmus, -ī m: branch, bough, twig
fervēns cicer	fervēns, -entis pres. part. of ferveō: boiling, hot, burning cicer, -eris n: chickpea, edible pea-like seeds
tepens lupīnus	tepeō, —, —, 2: be warm, be lukewarm lupīnus, -ī m: lupine, plant of bean or pea family

V.lxxviii

16. cōmissātiō: during the socialising and/or entertainment, snacks and beverages were served. The chickpea and the lupine were like our salted nuts, chips and dip, or sunflower seeds.
18. tulēre = tulērunt

II. PIPER§

Cērea quae patulō lūcet fīcēdula lumbō,

cum tibi sorte datur, sī sapis, adde piper.

XIII.v

piper, piperis n: pepper
cēreus, -a, -um: waxy, waxen; soft, pliant, flexible
patulus, -ī m: (lying) open, extended, spread out: wide, plump
lūceō, lūxī, —, 2: shine, gleam, glisten; be apparent, appear before one
fīcēdula, -ae f: small bird, "figpecker"
lumbus, -ī m: loin, side
cum conj. with indic. when, whenever, as, while; with subj: when, since, although, if, because
sors, sortis f: lot, casting lots; lottery; chance
sī conj: if
sapiō, -īvī (iī),—, 3: taste, savor; have taste; be wise, have good judgment
addō, addidī, additum, 3: put to, add; increase, give more

III. FABA§

Sī spūmet rubrā conchis tibi pallida testā,

lautōrum cēnīs saepe negāre potes.

XIII.vii

faba, -ae f: bean
sī conj: if
spūmō 1: froth, foam up, bubble up, boil, effervesce
ruber, -bra, -brum: red, ruddy, glowing
conchis, -is f: green bean
pallidus, -a, -um: pale, wan; afraid
testa, -ae f: brick, tile, fired clay; earthenware, clay pot
lautus, -a, -um: elegant, splendid, rich, noble
cēna, -ae f: dinner, meal
saepe adv: often, frequently
negō 1: say no to, refuse, decline
possum, potuī, —, posse irreg: can, be able

2. negāre: i.e., because you will be having such good meals at home.

§ Martial's title

IV. SIMULA§

Nec dōtēs simulae possis numerāre nec ūsūs,

pīstōrī totiēns cum sit et apta cocō.

simula, -ae f: flour
nec neg. conj: and not; neither...nor
dōs, dotis f: talent, gift; property, characteristic; pride, joy, delight
possum, potuī,--, posse irreg: can, be able
numerō 1: count, number, reckon, enumerate
ūsus, -ūs m: use, practice, exercise
pīstor, -ōris m: baker, miller
totiēns adv: so (as) many times, so often, so much
cum conj. with subj: when, since, although, because
aptus, -a, -um: apt, suitable, proper, fit, right, "handy"
cocus (coquus), -ī m: cook, chef

V. BĒTAE§

Ut sapiant fatuae, fabrōrum prandia, bētae,

o quam saepe petet vīna piperque cocus!

XIII.xiii

bēta, -ae f: beet
ut conj. with subj: that, so that, in order that
sapiō, -īvī (-iī), --, 3: taste, have flavor; be wise, be sensible
fatuus, -a, -um: foolish, silly; garrulous, talkative; tasteless, flat
faber, -brī m: worker, laborer; woodworker, metalworker, etc.
prandium, -(i)ī n: lunch, late breakfast, "brunch"
quam adv: how, how much, in what way; very, very much
saepe adv: often, frequently
petō, -īvī, -ītum, 3: go, travel; throw at; strike, stab; ask for, seek; get, acquire
vīnum, -ī n: wine
piper, piperis n: pepper
cocus (coquus), -ī m: cook, chef

§ Martial's title

VI. LACTŪCAE§

Clūdere quae cēnās lactūca solēbat avōrum,

dīc mihi, cūr nostrās inchoat illa dapēs?

XIII.xiv

lactūca, -ae f: lettuce
clūdō (claudō), clūsī, clūsum, 3: close, shut; end, conclude
quī, quae, quod rel. pron: who, which, that
cēna, -ae f: dinner, meal
soleō, --, --, 2: be in the habit of, be used to, be wont, be accustomed to
avus, -ī m: grandfather, forefather, ancestor
dīcō, dīxī, dictum, 3: say, tell, relate, report
cūr adv: why, for what reason
noster, -tra, -trum: our
inchoō 1: begin, commence
ille, illa, illud pron. & adj: that; he, she, it
dap(i)s, -is f: meal; banquet, feast; religious (sacrificial) meal

Martial himself gives the reason in XI.lii.5-6:

Prīma tibi dabitur ventrī lactūca movendō
ūtilis...

venter, trī m: stomach; entrails; womb; bowel

VII. RĀPA§

Haec tibi brūmālī gaudentia frīgore rāpa

quae damus, in caelō Rōmulus esse solet.

XIII.xvi

rāpum, -ī n: turnip
hic, haec, hoc pron. & adj: this; he, she, it
brūmālis, -e: of winter, wintery; of the winter solstice
gaudeō, --, gavīsum, 2 semi-deponent: be joyful, rejoice; to be delighted (pleased), take pleasure in
frīgus, -oris n: coolness, cold, chill; winter
quī, quae, quod rel. pron: who, which, that
dō, dedī, datum, 1: give, offer, present
caelum, -ī n: sky, heaven
Rōmulus, -ī m: founder and first king of Rome
edō, ēdī, ēsum, 3 or irreg. esse: eat, eat up, consume
soleō, --, --, 2: be in the habit of, be used to, be wont, be accustomed to

2. Rōmulus: The turnip is so good that Romulus eats it even after his deification.

§ Martial's title

VIII. PORRĪ SECTĪVĪ§

Fīla Tarrentīnī graviter redolentia porrī

ēdistī quotiēns, ōscula clūsa datō.

XIII.xviii

porrus, -ī m: leek, chive, scallion
sectīvus, -a, -um: cut, chopped up, diced
fīlum, -ī n: thread, strand; quality, texture; fiber, shoot
Tarrentīnus, -a, -um: Tarrentine; of Tarentum, a wealthy town on the coast of Magna Graecia
graviter adv: heavily, strongly, violently, gravely, soberly
redoleō, -uī, --, 2: emit a scent, smell, have an odor
edō, ēdī, ēsum, 3 or irreg. ēsse: eat, eat up, consume
quotiē(n)s adv: how many times, how often, as often as
ōsculum, -ī n: little mouth; puckered lips; kiss
clūdō (claudō), clūsī, clūsum, 3: close, shut, end, conclude
dō, dedī, datum, 1: give, offer, present

1. porrī: according to Pliny, Nero ate them to improve his voice.
2. clusa = ōre clūsō (ōs, ōris n: mouth)
   dato: future imperative

IX. CĀSEUS LŪNENSIS§

Cāseus Etrūscae signātus imāgine Lunae

praestābit puerīs prandia mīlle tuīs.

XIII.xxx

cāseus, -ī m: cheese
Lūnensis, -e: of Luna, town on the borders of Liguria and Etruria, founded by the Etruscans
Etrūscus, -a, um: Etruscan
signō 1: mark, put one's seal on, brand, stamp, imprint
imāgō, -inis f: image, likeness; crest; memory, idea
praestō, stitī, -itum, 1: be outstanding, surpass, excel; offer, present, afford; become surety for
prandium, -(i)ī n: lunch, late breakfast, "brunch"
mīlle num. adj. & indecl. n: thousand

1. puerīs = servīs
2. mille: Pliny says that the cheeses made at Luna were very large, weighing even a thousand pounds.

§ Martial's title

X. LŪCĀNICAE§

Fīlia Pīcēnae veniō, Lūcānia, porcae:
pultibus hinc nivēīs grāta corōna datur.

XIII.xxxv

Lūcānica, -ae f: a type of sausage made by the Lucani
Pīcēnus, -a, -um: belonging to Picenum, a district in east Italy on the Adriatic
porcus, -ī m: pig, hog
puls, pultis f: porridge, pottage, pulse
hinc adv: from here, hence; from this time; thereby
niveus, -a, -um: snowy, white
grātus, -a, -um: pleasing, pleasant, agreeable; dear
corōna, -ae f: wreath, garland; crown, halo

1. Lūcānia: The sausage itself is speaking, therefore the use of veniō.
2. hinc = mecum
grata: according to Apicius, the sausage was made of minced pork flavored with pepper, cumin, savory, rue, parsley, and bay leaves.

XI. ŌVA§

Candida sī croceōs circumfluit unda vitellōs,
Hesperius scombrī temperet ōva liquor.

XIII.xl

ōvum, -ī n: egg
candidus, -a, -um: (dazzingly) white, bright, shining; pure; serene
sī conj: if
croceus, -a, -um: of saffron, saffron-colored, yellow, golden
circumfluō, -flūxī, --, 3: flow around, surround, encircle
unda, -ae f: wave, water, liquid; wavering mass
vitellus, -ī m: yolk of an egg; little calf; as an endearment - "little one"
Hesperius, -a, -um: west, western; Spanish
scomber, -bri m: mackerel
temperō 1: keep within limits; temper, mix, prepare
liquor, -ōris m: liquor, fluid, liquid; sauce

2. Hesperius scombrī...liquor = garum, a fish sauce.
temperet: volitive or hortatory subjunctive

§ Martial's title

XII. PĀNĒS PĪCĒNTĪNĪ§

Pīcētīna Cerēs niveō sīc nectare crēscit

ut levis acceptā spongea turget aquā.

XIII.xlvii

pānis, -is m: bread
Pīcēntīnus, -a, -um: Picentine, of Picenum, district in of Italy on the Adriatic
Cerēs, -eris f: Ceres, Roman goddess of agriculture
niveus, -a, -um: snowy, white
sīc adv: so, thus, in such a way; as a result
nectar, -aris n: nectar
crēscō, crēvī, crētum, 3: spring up, rise; thrive, increase, grow; prosper, flourish
ut conj. with indic: while, as
levis, -e: light, lightweight; gentle, mild
accipiō, -cēpī, -ceptum, 3: accept, receive; admit
spongea (spongia), -ae f: sponge
turgeō, tursī, —, 2: swell up, be puffed up, be inflated

1. Pīcēntīna Cerēs = Pīcēntīnus pānis, metonomy. According to Pliny, Picenian bread was made of wheat (alica), steeped for nine days, then mixed with raisin juice, and kneaded into the shape of a skein or spool of yarn, and then baked. He adds that it was not fit to eat until it had been moistened with milk mixed with honey (mulsum).

XIII. BOLĒTĪ§

Argentum atque aurum facilest lasanaque togamque

mittere; bolētōs mittere difficilest.

XIII.xlviii

bolētus, -ī m: mushroom
argentum, -ī n: silver, silverware, money
atque conj: and also, and besides, and
aurum, -ī n: gold
facilis, -e: easy, simple; ready, willing, pleasant
lasena, -ae f: lined cloak
toga, -ae f: toga, long national costume of Romans
mittō, mīsī, missum, 3: send, let go
difficilis, -e: hard, difficult, trying

1. facilest = facile est. Such contractions were probably very common in everyday speech.
2. mittere: as a gift
difficilest: either because they grow only at certain seasons, or because they are so good that one prefers to eat them himself.

§ Martial's title

XIV. TURTURĒS§

Cum pinguis mihi turtur erit, lactūca, valēbis;
et cochleās tibi habē. Perdere nōlō famem.

XIII.liii

turtur, -uris m: turtledove
cum conj. with indic: when, as, while, whenever
pinguis, -e: fat, plump, juicy, rich
lactūca, -ae f: lettuce
valeō, -uī, valitūrum, 2: be well, be strong, prevail
cochlea, -ae f: snail
habeō, -uī, -itum, 2: have, hold, keep
perdō, -didī, -ditum, 3: ruin, waste, destroy, forfeit, spoil
nōlō, noluī, —, nolle irreg: be unwilling, not want, refuse
famēs, -is f: hunger, starvation; poverty, privation; appetite

1. mihi...erit = habeō.
valēbis = valē!
2. Perdere: by eating the gustus of lettuce and snails.

XV. GARUM SOCIŌRUM§

Expīrantis adhūc scombrī dē sanguine prīmō
accipe fastōsum, mūnera cāra, garum.

XIII.cii

garum (garon), -ī n: fish sauce
socius, -(i)ī m: ally, comrade, friend, companion, fellow
expīrō 1: breathe out, exhale, emit; die
adhūc adv: to the point of, up to now; still, now, just now
scomber, -brī m: mackerel
dē prep. with abl: (down) from, about, concerning
sanguis, -inis m: blood; relations, kin(ship)
prīmus, -a, -um: first
accipiō, -cēpī, -ceptum, 3: receive, get, take, accept
fastōsus, -a, -um: proud, haughty; fine, excellent; dear, costly
mūnus, -eris n: duty, job; gift, present; public games
cārus, -a, -um: dear, precious, costly, expensive

2. garum: Garum was made of the intestines of mackerel and was much prized as a flavoring by the Romans. The finest was called garum sociōrum and came from New Carthage in Spain. Pliny discusses how expensive garum was, saying that it sold for a thousand sesterces for two congiī, twelve pints or six quarts by our measures.

§ Martial's title

XVI. PAELIGNUM§

Marsīca Paelignī mittunt turbātae colōnī:

nōn tū, lībertus sed bibat illa tuus.

XIII.cxxi

Paelignum, -ī n: Pelignian wine
Marsīcus, -a, -um: Marsic; of the Marsians, a people of Latium, notorious as sorcerers and snakecharmers
Paelignus, -ī n: Pelignian, an Italic tribe
mittō, mīsī, missum, 3: send, let go
turbātus, -a, -um: disturbed, confused; turbid, unclear, cloudy
colōnus, -ī m: settler, colonist
lībertus, -ī m: freedman
bibō, bibī, bibitum, 3: drink, imbibe
ille, illa, illud pron. & adj: that; he, she, it

1. Marsīca = vīna
2. bibat: volitive or hortatory subjunctive
   illa: the antecedent is Marsīca (vīna) in line 1.

XVII. DŌNUM Ā MARTIALĪ

Parva suburbānī mūnuscula mittimus hortī:

faucibus ōva tuīs, pōma, Severe, gulae.

VII.xlix

dōnum, -ī n: gift, present; reward; bribe
ā (ab) prep. with abl: from, away from, by
parvus, -a, -um: small, little
suburbānus, -a, -um: near Rome, suburban
mūnusculum, -ī n: small present, little gift
hortus, -ī m. & f: (vegetable) garden; yard
faucēs, -ium f. pl: throat, gullet; inlet, pass; figuratively: appetite, hunger
ōvum, -ī n: egg
pōmum, -ī n: fruit
Severus, -ī m: proper name
gula, -ae f: throat, gullet; taste

§ Martial's title

XVIII. INTER ALIŌS...

Ignōtōs mihi cum vocēs trecentōs,

quārē nōn veniam vocātus ad tē

mīrāris quererisque lītigasque.

Sōlus cēnō, Fabulle, nōn libenter.

XI.xxxv

inter prep. with acc: between, among, amid
alius, alia, aliud pron. & adj: other, another; different
ignōtus, -a, -um: unknown; baseborn
cum conj. with subj: when, since, because, although
vocō 1: call, summon; ask, invite
trecentī, -ae, -a: three hundred
quārē adv: why, for what reason; how; whereby
veniō, vēnī, ventum, 4: come, arrive
ad prep. with acc: to, toward
mīror 1 deponent: marvel at, wonder at; be amazed, be astonished
queror, questum, 3 deponent: complain, protest; accuse
lītigō 1: quarrel, argue, dispute
sōlus, -a, -um: alone, lonely, only, single
cēnō 1: dine, eat a meal
Fabullus, -ī m: proper name
libenter adv: willingly, readily, cheerfully, gladly, with pleasure